



CITY OF  
**CLAREMONT**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING**

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 6:00 PM  
City Hall, Council Chambers, Claremont, NH

**MINUTES  
Approved 5/18/2017**

Mrs. Harlow called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and asked for a roll call.

**I. Roll Call**

**Present:** Dianne Harlow, Steve Wood, Eileen Skowronski, Scott Magnuson, Gary Dickerman, Kim Gogan

**Absent:** Nick Koloski

**II. Review of Minutes of Preceding Meeting(s)**

**A. March 16, 2017**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of March 16<sup>th</sup>

**Made by:** Mr. Dickerman      **Second:** Mr. Magnuson

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

**III. Finance Report**

**A. March 17, 2017**

Current balance in the checking account is \$16,810.88. The last expense was the \$419.00 for NHACC annual dues. \$6.41 interest was earned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**IV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Pollinator Garden Update (E. Skowronski)**

Mrs. Harlow welcomed members of the Claremont Garden Club to the meeting. She said the Commission is learning about pollinator gardens and would like to put some in around town. The Commission thought of partnering with the Garden Club, as the Club has the experience and expertise and may be able to lend a hand to the Commission. Some of the proposed sites are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department and will require coordination with the department director, Mark Brislin.

Ms. Skowronski said the Garden Club takes care of the garden on the Broad Street side of City Hall and has done so for many years. It is an informal group with 11 active members that meet monthly and conduct garden-themed activities. The Club started in 1950 and has changed greatly over the years as women's roles have evolved. Ms.

Skowronski thought the Club could look at the array of plants in the City Hall garden and perhaps add some pollinator plants to the mix.

Ms. Skowronski thought the Club could comment on garden plans created by the Commission.

The Garden Club will be attending the Upper Valley Pollinator Partners' workshop (*Supporting Native Bees with Gardens and Meadows*) on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Montshire Museum as their activity for this month.

Club member, Judy Tatum, asked for some specifics about the gardens the Commission wanted to create (size, location, etc.) Mrs. Harlow mentioned the traffic island at the intersection of Broad and Chestnut Streets and a 20 ft. x 5-8 ft. garden in Moody Park. Ms. Tatum said it sounded "doable". Mrs. Harlow suggested a joint meeting of the Commission, the Garden Club and Mark Brislin to further discuss details. Ms. Skowronski suggested including high school students in the projects.

Ms. Skowronski updated the Commission on information she had learned/received from the various pollinator-related meetings she has attended.

- Upper Valley Pollinator Partners program at the Montshire Museum – March meeting discussed native pollinators
- Managing a garden with fewer chemicals – discussed the history and use of pesticides
- More information is available at [www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee](http://www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee)
- One does not have to be a group to support pollinators; it does not have to be a huge project; it can be as simple as 4 or 5 pollinator plants in a sunny spot in your garden – alyssum, marigolds (single-petaled), sunflowers and zinnias are good, simple pollinators
- Reduce the size of your lawn – leaving the edge around your lawn encourages wildflowers (wild asters and goldenrod)
- Be careful with or avoid altogether the use of pesticides (use only as directed); soap and water in a spray can works on aphids (better alternative to pesticides); knock Japanese beetles into a bucket of soapy water (hanging traps attract more beetles than they kill)

Ms. Skowronski suggested providing pollinator updates throughout the summer. She also referenced a handout on pollinator plants for your garden provided by Upper Valley Pollinator Partners. (Attachment A)

Mrs. Harlow said Barbara McIlroy and Erin Graf from the Hanover Garden Club are very interested in working with the Commission and the Claremont Garden Club and in helping to attract more people to help with the gardens. She thanked the Garden Club for attending the meeting. The Club members left the meeting.

Mrs. Harlow said she would speak with Mark Brislin once he returns from vacation.

## VI. New Business

**A. Wetlands Permit Applications:**

**i. Spillway reconstruction at Rice Reservoir (V. St. Pierre)**

Mr. St. Pierre did not attend the meeting. There was no material for the Commission to review.

Mrs. Harlow said she had unofficially discussed this application with Victor (St. Pierre). It regards repairs to the Rice Reservoir spillway.

Mr. Dickerman said this project was mentioned when they wanted to cut some trees there.

**ii. Dry hydrant at Innovative Homes**

Mr. St. Pierre did not attend the meeting. There were no materials for the Commission to review. Mrs. Harlow said she didn't know anything about this project. It is unclear if the landowner is filing for this permit or the City.

**iii. 492 Washington Street**

The project is a senior housing facility. The application is not expedited. Mrs. Harlow noted that the City Clerk's office had signed the application form in the wrong place, making it appear that the Conservation Commission had signed off on it. Mrs. Harlow said she didn't think the Commission needed to sign anything, just know that it's happening. The application states that the project is a complex on 18 acres, putting in duplex condos.

Mr. Wood suggested letting the City Clerk's office know that the Commission had not discussed this application before and had not authorized the Clerk's office to sign on the Commission's behalf, because DES may interpret it that way.

Mr. Dickerman said, "I don't understand how this happens. The applicant signed this in February. It was signed on March 1<sup>st</sup> by Jill and it's the middle of April and we're just getting this. I don't understand why we are always lagging on these. I think somebody needs to get a hold of DES."

Ms. Gogan agreed. The project could be underway before the Commission has a chance to review it. She said it was unacceptable.

Mr. Wood said that in this case it wasn't intended to be an expedited application. The consequences of this aren't what they could have been.

According to the application there are 5998 SF of forested wetlands on the project site that will be impacted. The Commission reviewed the map of the project site.

After reviewing and discussing the map, the Commission decided they wanted to walk the site with the landowner before the May meeting and discuss the project with the engineer at the May meeting. Arrangements will be made.

**VII. Communications**

Mr. Wood received a newsletter (as chair of the Commission) from the Connecticut River Conservancy, formerly the Connecticut River Watershed Council. They are headquartered in Greenfield, MA. (<https://www.ctriver.org/>)

**VIII. Other Business**

**A. T-Shirts**

The Commission thought T-shirts might be a good way to attract attention to the Commission's work when worn during on-site projects. Ms. Skowronski volunteered to look into what's available and pricing.

**B. Educational Update – Ms. Gogan**

Ms. Gogan said that yesterday and today, the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade went to the Nature's Classroom at the Sargent Center in Hancock (<http://www.naturesclassroom.org/sargent/>) and spent half a day with aquatic biologists studying macroinvertebrates and determining stream water quality.

Mr. Dickerman asked if she had had any further discussion with Dawn Dextrase from the County regarding the water table that they have. Ms. Gogan said they have had Dawn come to the school on several occasions to meet with the middle and high school teachers; she is working with the high school biology teacher on some curriculum writing; she has put out "her feelers" to all of the elementary schools. Certain people have taken her up on not just stuff that she has, but she has offered, "What do you need me to do?" Some have asked her to write a grant, some have invited her to visit their classroom. Ms. Gogan said they are developing a really good relationship with Dawn. She said they are really working to increase science education in the elementary schools. Dawn is working to support that endeavor. (Dawn works with Lionel Chute.) Ms. Gogan said she thought Dawn's position is being funded by grant money. She said Dawn also works with the staff at St. Gaudens. She said they just sent out a flier for STEAM – camp that they are doing in August which is only for Claremont Middle School students and they will provide a bus. It is a joint endeavor.

**C. Savings Special Places Conference (Alton, NH)**

Ms. Skowronski and Mrs. Bearse attended the conference on April 8<sup>th</sup>. She said she made connection with Lindsay Webb, with NH Fish and Game. Ms. Webb is willing to come to Claremont to help lay out a trail in the Stevens Brook Easement area and can provide some signage (free of charge).

Mr. Wood suggested talking to Ms. Webb about certain sections of the Bobby Woodman Trail as well, for example the connection to Monadnock Park and adjacent wetland areas.

**D. Community Service Day**

Mrs. Harlow announced that Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> is the school's community service day. She said there will be two groups working in Moody Park under the guidance of Lionel Chute and three groups will be working on the rail trail. She asked for additional help from anyone who is available.

**E. Easement Monitoring Workshop**

Mr. Dickerman will be attending the easement monitoring workshop on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is being conducted by the Upper Valley Land Trust.

**F. Mrs. Harlow**

Mrs. Harlow announced that she has sold her Claremont residence and is moving to Unity. She will be unable to serve on the Commission following the June closing. Everyone thanked Mrs. Harlow for a job well done in chairing the Commission for the last year and for all of her numerous contributions. Mrs. Harlow assured everyone that she will continue to remain active in Commission activities, just not as a member.

**G. Agendas**

It was requested that a new item entitled "Future Agenda Items" be added to the agenda.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting

**Made by:** Mr. Dickerman      **Second:** Ms. Gogan

**Vote:** Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*de Forest Bearse*



# Planning your garden – "Think like a pollinator."

The three basics to a bountiful pollinator and native plant garden: Start with **good soil**—loamy, organic soil mixed with some gravelly sand; give it plenty of **sun**—south and west-facing gardens with 4-6 hours of sun a day do best and **water** it throughout the growing season for the first few years.

**Go Native.** Pollinators are "best" adapted to local, native plants, which often need less water than ornamentals.

**Bee Bountiful.** Plant big patches of each plant species (better foraging efficiency).

**Bee Patient.** It takes time for native plants to grow and for pollinators to find your garden, especially if you live far from wild lands.

**Bee Gentle.** Most bees will avoid stinging and use that behavior only in self-defense. Male bees do not sting.

**Bee Chemical Free.** Pesticides and herbicides kill pollinators.

**Bee Sunny.** Provide areas with sunny, bare soil that's dry and well-drained, preferably with south-facing slopes.

**Bee Honey.** Make small piles of branches to attract butterfly chrysalis or moth cocoons. Provide hollow twigs, rotten logs with wood-boring beetle holes, stumps, old rodent burrows, fallen plant material, and bunchgrasses for nesting bees. Leave dead or dying trees for woodpeckers.

**Bee a little messy.** Most of our native bee species (70%) nest underground so avoid using weed cloth or heavy mulch.

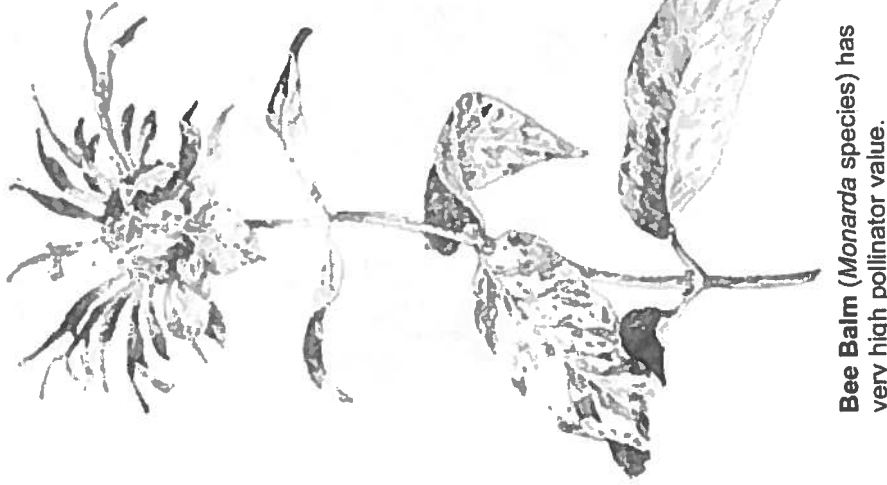
**Bee Showy.** Flowers should bloom in your garden throughout the growing season. Plant willow, currant, and Oregon grape for spring and aster, rabbit brush and goldenrod for fall flowers.

**Bee Friendly.** Create pollinator-friendly gardens both at home, at schools and in public parks. Help people learn more about pollinators and native plants.



**CREDITS:**  
Text: US Forest Service  
Artwork: Nancy Seiler

**Bee Diverse.** Plant a diversity of flowering species with abundant pollen and nectar and specific plants for feeding butterfly and moth caterpillars.



**Bee Balm** (*Monarda* species) has very high pollinator value.

## Pollinator Plants for Starting Your Garden

Native to New England / Sorted by season / Good pollinator value  
 Check our website for links to detailed pollinator plant information:  
<http://www.hanovernh.org/biodiversity-committee>

**Avoid full-flowered cultivars of these plants.** Choose single-flower types.

### Spring Blooming Perennial Plants

Milkweed: *Asclepias* species. *A. incarnata*, *A. tuberosa* are not aggressive.  
 Indigo: *Baptisia* species. *B. australis* (blue)  
 Lupine: *Lupinus perennis*, native to NE.  
 Golden Alexanders: *Zizia aurea*, very early.

### Summer Blooming Perennial Plants

Bee Balm: *Monarda* species. *M. fistulosa* (lavender, NOT red), *M. punctata*  
 Black-Eyed Susan: *Rudbeckia* species.  
 Blazing Star: *Liatris* species. *L. aspera*, *L. spicata*  
 Coneflowers: *Echinacea*, and *Ratibida* species  
 Beardtongue: *Penstemon* species. *P. digitalis*  
 Coreopsis species: *C. lanceolata*  
 Indigo: (*Baptisia*): *B. tinctoria* (yellow), *B. alba* (white)  
 Lobelia species: *L. siphilitica*  
 Mountain Mint: *Pycnanthemum* species  
 Vervain: *Verbena* species

### Fall Blooming Perennial Plants

Aster species: *A. laevis*, *A. laterifolius*, *A. lanceolatus*, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*  
 Goldenrod: *Solidago* species, *S. caesia*, *S. nemoralis* are not aggressive.  
 Sneezeweed: *Helenium* species. These don't cause sneezing!

### Annuals with Long Blooming Period & Pollinator Value

Alyssum, Bacopa, Bidens, Calendula, Cosmos, Euphorbias (spurge), Heliotrope, Marigolds (*open types*),  
 Lobelia, Osteospermum, Portulaca, Salvia and Verbena (*if blue*), annual sunflowers, Zinnia  
 Most herbs and Dusty Miller are good pollinator plants, *if allowed to flower*.



Common Eastern Bumblebee